

Members

Rep. Ralph Ayres, Chairperson
Rep. Don Lehe
Rep. Mary Kay Budak
Rep. John Aguilera
Rep. Charlie Brown
Rep. Duane Cheney
Sen. Sue Landske, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Joseph Zakas
Sen. Rose Antich-Carr
Sen. Frank Mrvan
Sen. Earline Rogers
Mayor Daniel M. Klein



NORTHWEST INDIANA TRANSPORTATION STUDY COMMISSION

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Dan Paliganoff, Attorney for the Commission
James Sperlik, Fiscal Analyst for the Commission

Authority: P.L. 31-2003

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 25, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: Valparaiso City Hall, 166 Lincolnway,
Valparaiso City Council Chambers
Meeting City: Valparaiso, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Ralph Ayres, Chairperson; Rep. Don Lehe; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Rep. John Aguilera; Rep. Charlie Brown; Rep. Duane Cheney; Sen. Sue Landske, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Joseph Zakas; Sen. Rose Antich-Carr; Sen. Frank Mrvan; Sen. Earline Rogers; Mayor Daniel M. Klein.

Members Absent: Sen. Marvin Riegsecker.

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Rep. Ralph Ayres, Chairperson of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Rep. Ayres recognized **Jon Costas**, Mayor of Valparaiso and host of the meeting, who welcomed the Commission and expressed his support for the work of the Commission. Rep. Ayres then asked the members of the Commission to introduce themselves.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Rep. Ayres next addressed the Commission's anticipated schedule of meetings. Rep. Ayres announced that the second meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on September 27, 2005, in the conference room of the Gary Chicago International Airport. The anticipated agenda for the second meeting will consist of presentations by John Clark, Chairman of the new Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, and by Tim Sanders, Northwest Regional Director of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. The third meeting is expected to take place on October 4, 2005, but the agenda and location is not yet fixed. Rep. Ayres noted that the Toll Road District, originally scheduled to make a presentation at the first meeting, will instead make its presentation at some later meeting. In addition, the Commission expects to have a fourth meeting before October 31, 2005. **Rep. Charlie Brown** volunteered the suggestion that at some time during the Commission's schedule of meetings the Commission should take up the topic of Bureau of Motor Vehicles site closings in northwest Indiana.

Rep. Ayres read the Commission's statutory charge and the additional charge formulated by the Legislative Council in Legislative Council Resolution 05-02 (2005). See Attachment 1.

The next item raised by Rep. Ayres was the impending expiration of the Commission on November 2, 2005. Rep. Ayres explained that in the past the Commission's enabling legislation was repeatedly amended to extend the life of the Commission, but that did not occur during the past session. Accordingly, he offered for the Commission's consideration a draft bill to reestablish the Commission during the next session of the General Assembly. See Attachment 2. After a short discussion, Rep. Ayres deferred further consideration of the draft by the Commission to a later meeting.

PRESENTATION OF JOHN PARSONS FROM THE NORTHERN INDIANA TRANSPORTATION COMMUTER DISTRICT

Rep. Ayres recognized **John Parsons**, Director of Marketing and Planning for the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD). A printed version of Mr. Parson's electronic slide presentation to the Commission is attached to these minutes. See Attachment 3. The presentation covered the following main topics:

- The extent of NICTD's existing service
- Ridership fluctuations over the years
- Ridership growth in the current calendar year
- NICTD's capital investment strategy
 - Enhance safety: replacement of bridges
 - Improve reliability of equipment
 - Reduce travel time and expand capacity

PRESENTATION OF JOHN SWANSON FROM THE NORTHWEST INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

At the conclusion of Mr. Parson's presentation, Rep. Ayres introduced **John Swanson**, Executive Director of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Council (NIRPC). A printed version of Mr. Swanson's electronic slide presentation to the Commission is attached to these minutes. See Attachment 4. Mr. Swanson's talk included the following main topics:

- NIRPC background
- Profile of the NIRPC region: Lake, Porter, and La Porte Counties
- Transportation planning
 - Connections 2030 Regional Transportation Plan
 - INDOT preliminary 10-year new construction schedule (See also in this

connection Attachment 5, Preliminary Draft IPOC (INDOT Planning and Oversight Committee) Scores)

- Public transportation planning
- Non-motorized transportation: trails and corridors
- Marquette Plan and Marquette Plan Phase II proposals (See Attachment 6, The Marquette Plan: The Lakeshore Reinvestment Strategy)

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

At the conclusion of Mr. Swanson's presentation, Rep. Ayres solicited questions and comments from the public in attendance. Mr. Parsons and Mr. Swanson each responded to several additional questions concerning the topics addressed during their presentations.

Rep. Ayres declared the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.